



# SUMMARY REPORT



## 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

***The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures***

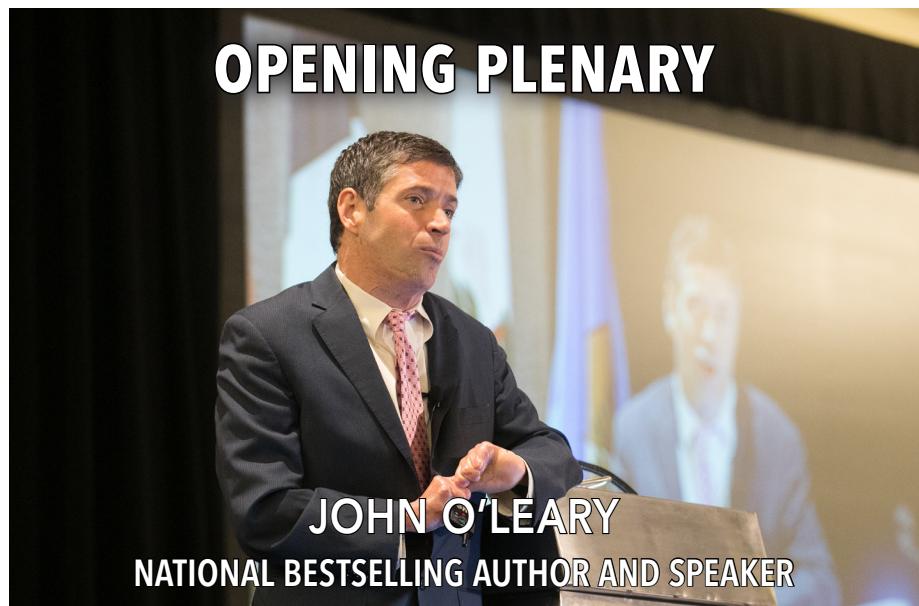
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The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference, held July 21–25, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri, brought state legislators from across the South together with policy experts to discuss, review and consider the opportunities for bringing prosperity and promise to states and communities in the region.

The meeting summaries in this report are condensed overviews of presentations provided at policy sessions of the SLC Annual Meeting. When available, presentations from sessions can be found on the SLC website at [slcatlanta.org/MO2018](http://slcatlanta.org/MO2018).

## OPENING PLENARY



## CLOSING PLENARY



## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM



# SLC/RON RICHARD CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

## brings people together to

# RELIEVE HUNGER IN THE SOUTH



According to Feeding America—a nonprofit devoted to ending hunger—in 2016, nearly 15 percent of Missourians were food insecure—defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as lacking access to sufficient food at all times for all household members. Missouri's rate was higher than the 2016 national average of 12.9 percent. To aid families in Missouri, the SLC held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Campaign Against Hunger, under the leadership of Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, SLC Chair for 2017-2018. During this year's SLC/Ron Richard Campaign Against Hunger, Annual Meeting participants packaged 50,000 meals for families in the St. Louis area, bringing the SLC's total number of donated meals to half a million.



The packaged meals and a charitable contribution of \$2,500 were donated to the St. Louis Area Foodbank. Since 1975, the St. Louis Area Foodbank has been feeding food insecure Missourians and Illinoisans, distributing more than 42 million pounds of food in 2017.

The SLC made additional donations of \$2,500 each to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM) Food Pantry. The Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry provides food, personal care items and community resource referrals to help individuals and families of all faiths and backgrounds through difficult times and serves more than 7,000 people each month. Formed in 1986, TEAM Food Pantry provides food and a variety of personal care items to needy families in the Florissant and Hazelwood areas, serving around 800 families each month.

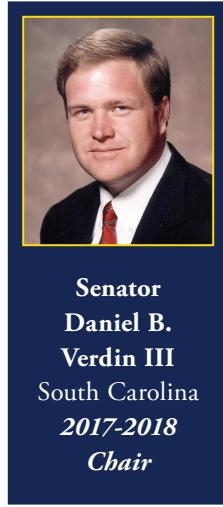


The SLC partners with The Outreach Program, an Iowa-based nonprofit with an enduring mission of providing food, water, medical care and education to millions of children in the United States and in East Africa, to sponsor this event. The SLC also presented The Outreach Program with a donation of \$1,500.

# AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY

## ECONOMICS OF HERBICIDES: THE DICAMBA DILEMMA

In modern agriculture, herbicides are necessary to ensure healthy crops and sufficient food to feed growing populations. As new crops are introduced into the marketplace, new herbicide formulas often are needed. New herbicide technologies also are necessary to combat increased weed pressures and resistance from overuse of certain tools.



In 2017, newly registered dicamba formulations offered by Monsanto, BASF and DuPont were approved for application on cotton and soybean seed traits resistant to the herbicides. Of an estimated 89.5 million acres of soybeans planted nationwide, an estimated 22 million acres were planted with dicamba-tolerant G.M.O. seeds and treated with the “over the top” approach in 2017. Of the 22 million acres treated, an estimated 3.4 million acres of soybeans were reported to have suffered damage related to dicamba exposure. In response, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the producers of dicamba, made changes to the herbicides’ labels for the 2018 growing season.

In addition to EPA label enhancements for dicamba, applicators must complete mandatory training and comply with strict record keeping requirements. Monsanto also has created an application to assist and inform users of proper spraying techniques; distributed more than 1.1 million free nozzles; established a technical support call center; and instituted a collaborative inquiry process. Through significant preparation and ongoing training, dicamba-related crop damage is estimated to be lower in the 2018 growing season.

## 2018 FARM BILL: WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED

Approved in 2014, the current U.S. Farm Bill is the centerpiece of the federal government’s food and agricultural policies and will expire in September. The 2018 Farm

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### ECONOMICS OF HERBICIDES: THE DICAMBA DILEMMA

*Ty Witten, Ph.D.*, Crop Protection Lead,  
North America Technology Development  
& Agronomy, Monsanto, Missouri

*Michael Goodis*, Director, Registration Division,  
Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### 2018 FARM BILL: WHAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED

*Eric Bobl*, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs,  
Missouri Farm Bureau

*Scott Brown, Ph.D.*, Director of Strategic Partnerships,  
College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources,  
University of Missouri

### RECOMMITTING TO RURAL AMERICA: POLICIES AND INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN STATES

*Representative Terry England*, Georgia

*Jared Arnett*, Executive Director,  
Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Kentucky



Bill is a key legislative priority, providing comprehensive policies on conservation, trade, nutrition, jobs and infrastructure, agricultural research, forestry and energy.

The current U.S. House and Senate versions of the 2018 Farm Bill are at odds on a number of issues important to Southern states, including: work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the adjusted gross income cap and industrial hemp legalization.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Agriculture & Rural Development Committee re-elected Senator Daniel B. Verdin III, South Carolina, to serve as the committee's chair, and Senator Casey Murdock, Oklahoma, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.



The fate of the 2018 Farm Bill now lies in a conference committee, where differences between the House and Senate versions must be reconciled. However, with the House adjourned for summer recess, it is unlikely a conciliated Farm Bill will pass before the September 30 deadline.

If the 2014 Farm Bill expires before a new one is passed, there likely will be a one-year renewal of the legislation, allowing policymakers more time to reconcile the 2018 Farm Bill.

## RECOMMITTING TO RURAL AMERICA: POLICIES AND INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN STATES

Faced with population declines, hospital closures and increased unemployment, rural communities across the South continue to struggle for a piece of the prosperity found in booming urban and suburban counties. To address this, states across the region are tackling legislation aimed at solving unique challenges confronting rural areas: access to healthcare, broadband expansion, economic development, infrastructure improvements and workforce readiness.

In Georgia, 108 of the state's 159 counties are rural. These communities contribute more than \$75 billion to the state's economy, but also have higher rates of poverty. This is compounded by negative net migration in 99 counties. The success of the state's metro areas is deeply aligned with the contributions of rural Georgia. These communities sustain the intense demand and consumption of the state's urban centers for food, clothing and housing. To address the unique needs of rural communities, the Georgia House Rural Development Council held meetings in 11 rural locations across the state. Policy outcomes include legislation aimed at supporting transportation infrastructure, streamlining the pathway between workforce development and education to better meet industry demands and increasing access to healthcare.

Kentucky's Appalachian region faces many of the same endemic challenges as rural areas across the South, compounded by the steady loss of jobs in the state's coal industry. In Floyd County, for example, there are 28 jobs available for every 100 people. The labor participation rate, at 44.7 percent, lags the national average by nearly 20 percentage points. Shaping Our Appalachian Region was founded to address these challenges by uniting stakeholders in a shared vision, acting as a catalyst for systemic change, reallocating resources for strategic regional investments, building on the capacity of local leaders and inspiring individuals and communities to act. The organization's Blueprint for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Appalachia includes seven focus areas: regional food systems, regional tourism development, industrial development, healthy communities, small business in the digital economy, broadband infrastructure expansion and a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY



Representative  
Jeanie Lauer  
Missouri  
**2017-2018**  
**Chair**

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

*Kimberly Hauge*, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.

*Brad Neese*, Associate Vice President, Division of Economic Development,  
South Carolina Technical College System

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SITE SELECTION FOR PROMOTING GROWTH

*Adam Bruns*, Managing Editor, Site Selection Magazine, Georgia

*Christopher Chung*, CEO, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

### EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN MISSOURI

*Rob Dixon*, Director, Department of Economic Development, Missouri

*Zora Mulligan*, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education, Missouri

## EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Due to a lack of training and education among prospective employees, many businesses often have difficulty finding enough skilled workers to remain competitive in the global economy. This is particularly the case for positions that require moderate to high levels of technical knowledge, which are critical for sustained success in the years ahead.

Successful apprenticeship programs, which have proven valuable for both businesses and students, can help state and local leaders address the skills gap that exists in many industries. For businesses, apprenticeships can nurture student interest in careers related to their industry, potentially increasing the number of applicants in the future and improving employee retention and productivity. They also facilitate robust partnerships with schools, thereby ensuring that education standards include the skills and training necessary to succeed in growing industries. For students, apprenticeships offer the opportunity to apply content learned in the classroom to the workplace, allowing them to explore career options by gaining critical work experience. Apprentices also can interact with mentors who can assist them later when they are seeking career opportunities.

South Carolina, led by the SC Technical College System, successfully adopted an apprenticeship model that can be



replicated in states across the SLC region. In 2007, the state had approximately 800 apprentices, lagging many surrounding areas in the South. Today, the number has grown exponentially, to more than 28,000 apprentices in nearly 1,000 different programs, including those in advanced manufacturing, energy and utilities, healthcare, information technology, and distribution and logistics.

Although the number of apprentices nationally is at a 20-year high, many challenges remain. Employers often lack awareness of apprenticeship programs and, even when they are aware, uncertainty about government regulations and a lack of resources may prevent them from fully leveraging an apprenticeship model.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee elected Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi, to serve as the committee's chair, and Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter, Alabama, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SITE SELECTION FOR PROMOTING GROWTH

As companies consider expanding or relocating to new areas, it is important for policymakers to understand the many variables that often impact their decisions. Workforce skills and development always are high on the list of priorities, followed by transportation and infrastructure; cost and reliability of utilities; state and local tax structures; availability of land; quality of life; and financial incentives.

Many states in the SLC region are ranked near the top nationally for their favorable business climates and ability to meet employers' needs. In 2017, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia were among the top 10 states nationally for the number of new and expanded facilities, while Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana and South Carolina were among

the top 10 in new and expanded facilities per capita. Meanwhile, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Alabama all ranked in the top 10 nationally for the total number of career-readiness certificates in rural and small town areas.

The driving factors that discourage companies from investing in an area include insufficient government funding and incentives, lack of available buildings and site locations, inferior workforce development programs and incomplete information from government entities. States and communities can address these issues by providing more robust incentives, improving tax structures, streamlining permits and partnering with local employers and higher education partners to create effective workforce-readiness programs.

It is important for states and communities to remember that attracting new businesses can be very competitive, with multiple states and hundreds of cities often vying for the same prospective employers. In many instances, it may be more fruitful to devote greater attention to retaining existing businesses and workforce populations rather than attempting to attract new ones.

## EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN MISSOURI

The Department of Economic Development, in coordination with agencies across Missouri, recently launched an initiative to give the state a competitive advantage that will spur regional growth in the years ahead. As a first step, the state has acknowledged several obstacles preventing further development and productivity, including tensions between rural, urban and suburban communities, inadequate infrastructure and insufficient post-secondary degrees and credentials.

After recognizing the challenges, a concerted effort to increase the quality of life in Missouri; attract and retain talent; leverage public aid programs to incentivize work; facilitate reentry for released inmates; and improve access to employment for people with disabilities was begun. Meanwhile, the state is increasing the productivity of the workforce by aligning primary and higher education standards with the needs of current and prospective employers, encouraging businesses to provide employees with skills needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and building infrastructure that can drive development for decades.

# EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY



Senator  
Joyce Elliott  
Arkansas  
2017-2018  
Chair

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### THE WHOLE CHILD INITIATIVE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION

*David Griffith*, Senior Director of Public Policy, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Virginia

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### WORLD CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEMS PANEL

*Marc Tucker*, President and CEO, National Center for Education and the Economy, Washington, D.C.

*Dion Burns*, Senior Researcher, Learning Policy Institute, California

*Senator Joyce Elliott*, SLC Education Committee Chair, Arkansas

*Representative Robert Behning*, Indiana

## THE WHOLE CHILD INITIATIVE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION

The demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century require a new collaborative approach to fully prepare students for college, career and citizenship. Research and practice confirm that a whole child approach to education develops and prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow by making their needs the shared responsibility of students, families, schools and communities. The Whole Child Initiative is an effort to transition from a narrow focus on academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all children.

Policymakers can achieve this success by ensuring that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged, which sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable school improvement and provides for long-term student success. With this initiative, each student enters school healthy; learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle; learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe; remains actively engaged and connected to the school and broader community; is provided access to personalized learning and the support of qualified, caring adults; and is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment.

Several states and districts have successfully implemented the Whole Child Initiative into policy, including Arkansas, which codified this approach through Act 1326 of 2013. Additionally, the governors of 26 states have created

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Education Committee re-elected Senator Joyce Elliott, Arkansas, to serve as the committee's chair, and Representative Kathryn Swan, Missouri, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.



children's cabinets to research and implement this initiative. Florida and Mississippi successfully implemented physical education requirements into their curriculums, while Kentucky uses individual learning plans for all students to prepare graduates for career and postsecondary education options. By fundamentally changing the way states view educational success and emphasizing a new collaborative approach, state education systems can address the needs of the whole child.



States show they rank at or near the bottom in reading, numeracy and problem solving. However, states are positioned to implement better systems at the state and local level and see their students compete globally.

By looking at high-performing education systems, states can identify and implement nine building blocks for competing with global systems. These building blocks are:

1. strong support for children and families before students arrive at school;
2. more resources for at-risk students than for others;
3. world class, highly coherent instructional systems;
4. clear gateways for students through a system set to global standards, with no dead ends;
5. an abundant supply of highly qualified teachers;
6. redesigned schools, with incentives and support to continuously improve teachers and student performance;
7. effective systems of career and technical education and training;
8. leadership development systems; and
9. coherent governance systems capable of implementing effective policies at scale.

In addition to these nine building blocks, policymakers can examine world class education systems and how these empower their educators to shape teaching quality. In high-performing systems, high-quality teaching is achieved through various social and political contexts including recruitment; preparation; induction and mentoring; ongoing professional learning; appraisal and feedback; career and leadership development; curriculum and assessment; and funding and organization of school systems. As educators in the United States spend 26.8 hours per week on instructional time – the highest among competing nations – more time could be allotted for individual research, professional collaboration and continuing education and to improve teaching quality.

## WORLD CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEMS PANEL

Since its peak in the 1970s, academic achievement in the United States has stagnated and fallen behind other nations, despite increased per-pupil spending and lower student-teacher ratios than competing countries. Results from the Program for International Student Assessment indicate that the United States currently ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in reading, 35<sup>th</sup> in mathematics and 18<sup>th</sup> in science out of 70 participating countries. Additionally, surveys of the young working population (ages 16-34) in the United

By examining the world class systems and policies in place in Australian territories and Canadian provinces, as well as the city-state of Singapore, Southern states can develop policies that empower educators and create high-performing education systems. Specifically, states can enact service scholarships and student loan forgiveness programs for educators, enable effective training and support for new teachers, improve teaching conditions and supportive leadership, and increase compensation to a competitive level.

# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY



Representative  
Lynn Smith  
Georgia  
**2017-2018**  
**Chair**

## LEVERAGING RESOURCES FOR BROWNFIELD RESTORATION

A brownfield is a property for which the expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the United States.

Mitigation and reinvestment in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, lessens development pressure, and both improves and protects the environment.

When crafting a brownfield redevelopment strategy, it is important to identify a catalyst site, existing partners, funding resources and the needs of the community. One useful resource is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Technical Assistance for Brownfields (TAB) Program, which assists communities in a variety of areas, including state brownfields and voluntary cleanup program requirements; brownfields redevelopment activities; community and stakeholder involvement; evaluation of health impacts; integrated approaches to brownfield cleanup and redevelopment; and locating sources of funding for brownfields assessment and cleanup. The services provided by TAB are available at no cost to participating states. By leveraging these and other tools, states can facilitate the mitigation of abandoned contaminated properties while spurring economic development.

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### LEVERAGING RESOURCES FOR BROWNFIELD RESTORATION

*Maggie Egberts*, TAB Coordinator for EPA Regions 5 and 7, Kansas State University  
*Camilla Warren*, Brownfields Revitalization Project Manager,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Georgia

### OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

*Timothy Williams*, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

### OKLAHOMA'S COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS PERMIT PROGRAM

*Scott Thompson*, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### THE FUTURE OF ELECTRICITY STORAGE AND THE U.S. GRID

*George Crabtree, Ph.D.*, Director, Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois  
*Michael Herbert*, Energy Industry Analyst, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.



## OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

In January 2018, Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke unveiled a new five-year plan that would allow more oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. The Draft Proposed Program (DPP) would schedule 47 lease sales from 2019 to 2024, the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Program's five-year lease schedule. Of note, inclusion of an area in the DPP phase



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Energy & Environment Committee elected Senator Ed Emery, Missouri, to serve as the committee's chair, and Representative Jim Gooch Jr., Kentucky, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.

is not necessarily an indication it will be included in the National OCS Program or offered in a lease sale. Release of the DPP is an early step in a multi-year planning and development process.

## OKLAHOMA'S COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS PERMIT PROGRAM

On June 18, 2018, Oklahoma became the first state in the nation to receive approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to operate a permit program for disposing of coal ash combustion residuals—commonly known as coal ash. Oklahoma's program contains all the elements of the federal rule, including requirements for location restrictions; design and operating criteria; groundwater monitoring and corrective action; closure requirements and post-closure care; recordkeeping; notification; and internet posting requirements. It also contains state-specific language, references and requirements that differ from the federal rule, which EPA determined to be as protective as federal criteria. The approval authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to process permit applications and enforce permit violations for existing and future coal ash units based on state law requirements, rather than federal regulations.

## THE FUTURE OF ELECTRICITY STORAGE AND THE U.S. GRID

The electric grid was built to transmit, not store, electricity. However, recent technological and regulatory advancements are changing the way electricity is produced and delivered. As the cost of energy storage declines, and a new wave of supportive policies emerges, grid battery storage development is targeting value streams beyond frequency regulation. Analysts estimate that energy storage technologies will grow fivefold between now and 2020, from about \$400 million to about \$2 billion.

Energy storage technology will alter the current system of instantaneously balancing energy generation with demand. As such, energy storage can be a major player in the grid, pervading generation, transmission and distribution networks. Storage also can provide congestion relief and enable utilities to defer and/or avoid infrastructure expansion and upgrades. Meanwhile, on the distribution end, energy storage implementation can assist with demand management, provide back-up power and can be customized to function as a micro-grid.

These emerging technologies require new regulations. To address this, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued Order 841, which directs Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators to create new market rules to allow for the participation of storage resources and sets minimum requirements that each entity must meet when proposing new market rules, while leaving some flexibility in implementation. This Order paves the way for energy storage to participate in wholesale energy markets on a level playing field with other resources.

# FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY



Representative  
Randy McDaniel  
Oklahoma  
**2018**  
*Chair Emeritus*

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRENDS

*Mark Vitner*, Managing Director and Senior Economist, Wells Fargo, North Carolina

### EXAMINING THE FEDERAL BUDGET'S EFFECT ON SOUTHERN STATES

*Matthew Reese*, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, Federal Funds Information for States, Washington, D.C.

### HOW STATES USE DATA TO INFORM DECISIONS

*Amber Ivey*, Officer, Government Performance, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### SUPREME COURT UPDATE: FISCAL IMPACTS

*Daniel Epps*, Associate Professor of Law, Washington University School of Law, Missouri

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC TRENDS

The national economic outlook for 2018 projects continued growth and lower unemployment. In the South, strong global growth is boosting economic activity resulting in strong manufacturing outputs, increased investment and lower unemployment. As a result, seven Southern states are experiencing an increase in GDP equal to or above the national average of 1.6 percent. In addition to manufacturing strength, most Southern states are realizing significant increases in non-farm payroll growth as well as a rebounding energy sector strongly benefiting Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. The South also is home to 11 of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country. Growth in both the urban population and employment in the South is due largely to housing affordability spurred by land availability and favorable local development policies.

Global trade disputes and tariffs are among the most serious economic challenges confronting the United States and SLC states specifically. This uncertainty is especially worrisome as exports comprise a significant percentage of state GDP, particularly in a number of Southern states. How this will affect the South's largest exporters—Kentucky, Louisiana, South Carolina and Texas—remains to be seen.

## COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS

Comparative Data Reports (CDRs) are prepared annually by select SLC states' fiscal and research departments. CDRs track a multitude of revenue sources and appropriations levels in Southern states and remain a useful tool to legislators and legislative staff alike in determining their respective state spending. The reports presented at the SLC Annual Meeting were:

### ADULT CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS

*Monique Appeaning*, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana

### EDUCATION

*Hank Hager*, Senate Education Committee, West Virginia

### MEDICAID

*Zachary M. Rau*, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana

### TRANSPORTATION

*David Tally*, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky

Comparative Data Reports are prepared under the auspices of the Conference's Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee. Reports for 2018 and previous releases, dating to 2000, are available through the SLC website at [slcatlanta.org/research/CDRs](http://slcatlanta.org/research/CDRs).

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee elected Representative Penny Houston, Georgia, to serve as the committee's chair, and Representative John Read, Mississippi, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.



## EXAMINING THE FEDERAL BUDGET'S EFFECT ON SOUTHERN STATES

Grants to state and local governments comprise a small portion of the federal budget. However, they represent a large portion of state budgets, accounting for 30 percent of total state revenue. This is more pronounced in the South where five states—Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee—receive more than 38 percent of their general revenue from federal grants.

Overwhelmingly, funding in the health sector dominates grants to state and local governments, representing 60 percent, or \$396.7 billion of all federal grants. Of the health grants, Medicaid represents—on average—\$1,100 of the \$1,871 per capita spending in federal grant funding, followed by income security and transportation grants, which combined represent 26 percent or \$168 billion. Regionally, the South has five states receiving more than the national average in per capita grant funding and 10 that receive less than the average. If Medicaid is removed from the equation, the South only has eight states receiving less than the national average and seven that receive more than the average (West Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama and Oklahoma).

## HOW STATES USE DATA TO INFORM DECISIONS

Data has long been an undervalued and underutilized asset for states. The Pew Charitable Trusts' Data as a Strategic Asset initiative notes four strategic ways states can use data for decision-making: crafting policy responses to complex problems; improving service delivery; managing existing resources; and evaluating the effectiveness of policies and programs. Several states across the country already are using these methods to inform their decision-making.

In Massachusetts, policymakers use data to craft policy responses to complex issues such as the increasing drug overdose rate. Chapter 52, passed by Massachusetts in 2016, is one such way data helped shape policy by addressing the contributing factors to the opioid crisis through treatment, education and prevention. Missouri is using data to improve delivery of health department services. By tracking individuals with chronic health conditions who frequent emergency services, the state identifies high-cost patients and pairs them with a

case worker to improve their health outcome, resulting in reduced costs to the state through the reduction of emergency care services. Delaware uses data to better manage their existing resources through the attachment of GPS devices to its fleet of state vehicles to achieve a more efficient allocation. This has led to savings of more than \$874,000, as this data helps reduce the miles driven and fuel costs of the fleet vehicles.

## SUPREME COURT UPDATE: FISCAL IMPACTS

The recent Supreme Court term was of significant importance to states and policymakers, featuring two major decisions impacting future state revenue projections. The *South Dakota v. Wayfair* decision, striking the physical nexus requirement for online sales tax collection, was a major victory for state governments. This allows states to immediately proceed with the prospective collection of sales tax from online retailers. However, the decision is silent on the issue of retroactive collection as well as any constitutional limits on more aggressive state actions or measures to collect these taxes. South Dakota Senate Bill 106 (2016)—the basis of the Supreme Court case—can serve as a model for states seeking to implement tax collection of online retailers.

The second decision likely to affect future state revenue projections, *Murphy v. NCAA*, overturned the federal ban on sports gambling. States now can set legislative rules and accommodations for sports betting in their states; many already have done so in anticipation of this ruling. Mississippi and West Virginia will see the effects of the additional revenue in the coming months, due to anticipatory legislation and regulations enacted during their 2018 legislative sessions.

# HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION SUMMARY



**Senator  
Katrina Shealy**  
South Carolina  
**2017-2018  
Chair**

## SCHOOL SAFETY: SOLUTIONS FROM STATES

Recent events have prompted difficult, yet necessary, conversations about the level of safety in public schools. Considering the regularity of incidents affecting students inside and outside the classroom—such as medical emergencies, mental health crises and active shooter situations—school safety remains one of the most pressing issues facing state and local leaders today.

Arkansas was the first state in the nation to install the Panic Button School Safety System notification system in all public K-12 schools. A smartphone-based application, the Panic Button is a unique safety and security communication platform that allows school officials to alert first responders, with a single touch on their phones, to various emergencies that may arise.

Statewide planning and implementation of the Panic Button commenced in July 2015 following the passage of the Arkansas School Safety Act, which committed the state to providing school districts with access to the latest school safety technology. School personnel learned about the functions of the notification system and, importantly, schools were required to create digitized, geo-fenced campuses available for first responders. Geo-fenced campuses, now available for schools across the state, allow first responders to identify the exact location of incidents, thereby facilitating more efficient and effective response times.

## SUNDAY, JULY 22

### SCHOOL SAFETY: SOLUTIONS FROM STATES

*Mark Keel*, Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

*Representative Scott Baltz*, Arkansas

*Ted Mullenix*, Former State Representative, Arkansas

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

*Jennifer Snow*, Director, Public Policy, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Virginia

*Kimberly L. Nelson*, Regional Administrator,

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Missouri

## MONDAY, JULY 23

### AGING INMATE POPULATIONS

*William Sabol, Ph.D.*, Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology,

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University

*Anne L. Precythe*, Director, Department of Corrections, Missouri

*Matt Sturm*, Deputy Director, Department of Corrections, Missouri



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Human Services & Public Safety Committee elected Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina, to serve as the committee's chair, and Representative Fredrick Love, Arkansas, to serve as the committee's vice chair for 2018-2019.

ties can provide more comprehensive mental health counseling by funding school-based mental health services, enacting legislation that mandates mental health education in schools, applying for federal grants and replicating successful initiatives in other states.

## AGING INMATE POPULATIONS

During the past decade, the number of inmates aged 55 and older has increased significantly faster than the overall prison population. Today, in the SLC region, approximately 12 percent of the prison population consists of inmates who are at least 55 years old, many of them incarcerated for lengthy sentences due to violent offenses, such as homicide and sexual assault.

Older inmates are much more likely than younger ones to experience chronic and serious medical conditions, such as dementia, heart disease, diabetes and impaired mobility, which impact activities of daily living. Seventy-five percent of older inmates have a chronic medical condition and 35 percent have an infectious disease, compared to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively, for younger inmates. Meanwhile, 13 percent suffer from severe psychological distress, 35 percent have a history of mental health problems and 40 percent suffer from cognitive impairments.

If current trends continue, total estimated healthcare costs for older inmates in 2025 will rise to \$3 billion in the SLC region, representing a 16 percent increase over current levels. Meanwhile, the number of inmates aged 55 and older is projected to increase by at least 40 percent in every SLC state, with 10 of the 15 states expected to see increases of 60 percent or more.

To address the ongoing logistical and financial issues surrounding aging inmate populations, the Missouri Department of Corrections introduced chronic care clinics for those who require high levels of medical attention; created discharge teams that facilitate reentry for violent offenders who have completed their sentences; partnered with nursing homes to provide continuing care for released inmates; and issued medical parole for those near the end of their lives. The state also has implemented a system that employs younger inmates to provide basic care, such as mobility assistance, for aging inmates.



In addition to implementing mass notification systems, increased funding for school resource officers—perhaps the most effective solution for maximizing safety at schools—should be considered by policymakers, as well as building upgrades that are capable of shielding students and others on campus when incidents occur.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Mental health conditions impact millions of children and adolescents every year. More than one out of 10 children between the ages of 8-15 experience mental health issues, half of whom do not receive treatment or support. With approximately half of all mental illnesses beginning by age 14—and 75 percent by age 24—the lack of treatment options has serious, long-term consequences. Fifty percent of students aged 14 and older with a mental health condition eventually drop out of high school, resulting in greater rates of juvenile incarceration, fewer employment opportunities, and higher incidents of violence and suicide.

Mental, emotional and behavioral health disorders among children and adolescents cost the nation nearly \$250 billion annually, including billions of dollars in Medicaid expenditures each year. States and communi-

# STAFF WORKSHOP SUMMARY



**Marcia Goff**  
RESEARCH DIRECTOR,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Oklahoma  
*2017-2018 Chair,*  
*SLC Legislative Service*  
*Agency Directors Group*

## SUPREME COURT UPDATE

With decisions on taxation, gambling and voting laws, the 2017-2018 term of the U.S. Supreme Court was significant for state governments and noteworthy as Justice Neil Gorsuch's first full term and Justice Anthony Kennedy's last.

In *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, the court ruled that state and local governments can require businesses with no physical presence in the state to collect sales tax, in some instances. This case overturned the court's decision in *Quill v. North Dakota* (1992), which ruled that businesses must have a physical presence in the state to be taxed by that state. Many had argued that the *Quill* decision was outdated, as it was decided in the early days of the internet as a mechanism for commerce. Electronic commerce has skyrocketed in the 26 years since the *Quill* decision. In 1992, it was estimated that states were losing between \$694 million and \$3 billion annually in tax revenues due to the physical presence requirement; current estimates range from \$8 billion to \$33 billion of potential lost revenue for states.

In *Murphy v. NCAA*, the court determined that the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (1992), which prevented states from allowing sports gambling, violated the Tenth Amendment's anti-commandeering doctrine, which states that Congress lacks the power to issue orders directly to the states. Consequently, the court struck down the entire law as unconstitutional, opening the door for states to legalize sports gambling. The reliance on the anti-commandeering doctrine may have implications for other federal legislation and future cases.

## SATURDAY, JULY 21

### SUPREME COURT UPDATE

*Lisa Soronen*, Executive Director,  
State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.

### HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AT STATE CAPITOLS

*Michael E. Dossett*, Director, Kentucky Emergency Management  
**RETAINING AND REWARDING LEGISLATIVE STAFF**

*Marty Garrity*, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas  
*Martha Wigton*, Director, House Budget and Research Office, Georgia  
**SUCCESSION PLANNING IN STATE GOVERNMENT**

*Adriane Crouse*, Secretary of the Senate, Missouri  
*Patrick Baker*, Senate Administrator, Missouri





## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING AT STATE CAPITOLS

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, all levels of government have worked to develop contingency plans in the event of a terrorist attack. State capitol complexes have been identified by security experts as potential targets. Consequently, state governments have worked to develop continuity of government plans, which allow a government to continue operating after a catastrophic event, and continuity of operations plans, which establish procedures to ensure that critical functions continue and personnel and resources are relocated to alternate facilities in the event of emergencies. To ensure success, emergency management professionals recommend that these plans be sustainable for up to 30 days and created through collaboration among state agencies.

## RETAINING AND REWARDING LEGISLATIVE STAFF

With limited resources available to legislative service agencies, directors have adopted innovative methods to retain and reward staff. Recently, Arkansas's Bureau of Legislative Research hired a professional development coordinator and established an Aspiring Leaders program to help promote development for employees. The Bureau also has revamped their performance evaluations into quarterly discussions incorporating self-evaluations. Georgia's House Budget and Research Office (HBRO) seeks to reward employees with continuing education courses, recognition, flexible work schedules and tele-work options. In addition, HBRO staff have engaged in teambuilding exercises including escape room challenges, webinar viewing events and history tours.

## SUCCESSION PLANNING IN STATE GOVERNMENT

As members of the Baby Boomer generation continue to retire, all organizations, including state governments, must prepare for the massive loss of institutional knowledge that will accompany their departure. For example, Missouri's Office of the Secretary of the Senate recently assessed that two-thirds of their employees would be eligible to retire within two years, with other legislative offices experiencing similar numbers. To address this, the General Assembly has transitioned many retirement-eligible employees to part-time positions and increased hiring—doubling up on some positions so that incumbents may help train their replacements.

In *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, the court affirmed the legality of Ohio's practice of removing individuals from the state's voter rolls for not voting. If an Ohio voter does not vote for two years, the state sends them a notice to confirm their voter registration. If the voter does not respond to the notice and does not vote in any election in the next four years, Ohio removes the individual from their voter rolls. The court determined that the federal National Voter Registration Act explicitly permits this practice. Other states may now seek to replicate Ohio's policy, given this ruling.

# TECHNICAL TOURS

## AG COAST OF AMERICA AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee members on this technical tour embarked upon a boat excursion up the Mississippi River, one of the world's most important commercial waterways, to learn about the economic importance of the Ag Coast of America. The huge agribusiness industry of the Mississippi River Basin produces 92 percent of the nation's agricultural exports and 78 percent of the world's exports in feed grains and soybeans. In St. Louis, Missouri, one 15-mile section of the Mississippi River has the highest level of grain barge handling capacity along the waterway. While onboard, participants viewed the grain terminals and transfer facilities that together handle more than 150 barges each day.



## BOEING ST. LOUIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

With approximately 14,000 employees working at three facilities across the St. Louis region, Boeing produces sophisticated military aircraft and weapons systems for the U.S. Department of Defense and international aircraft programs, including the F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, F-15 Eagle and Joint Direct Attack Munition. Committee members on this technical tour received briefings from Boeing officials about the company's operations in the St. Louis region and toured the 777X commercial aircraft, F/A-18 Super Hornet production line and onsite flight ramp.



## AMEREN MISSOURI ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Through tours of Ameren Missouri's Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center and Dorsett Training Center, committee members participating on this technical tour learned about innovative energy generation technologies, rapid-response capabilities, and workforce training. The Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center leverages state-of-the-art turbine technology to consistently generate approximately 15 megawatts of renewable electricity by burning methane generated by landfills. At the Dorsett Training Center, members received a tour focused on rapid-response capabilities, including two Mobile Command Centers and four storm trailers.



# STATE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION RECOGNITION (STAR) AWARD JUDGES PANEL



Executive Director Mike Krause and Chief Policy and Strategy Officer Emily House of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission



Arkansas State Representative Scott Baltz (*left*) and Jason French, Director of Customer Success, Rave Mobile Safety (*right*)

The State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award Judges Panel—comprising state legislators, legislative staff and policy experts—convened on July 24 to select two winners of the 2018 STAR award from a cohort of five finalists. This was the second time that program scoring was conducted paper-free, with hand-held tablet computers.

## TENNESSEE PROMISE

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that pays any tuition and fees charged at community and technical colleges that are not covered by other sources of grant aid. These scholarship awards, on average, are approximately \$1,000 per student. Each Tennessee Promise student is paired with a mentor, an adult in their community who can support them through the college and financial aid application processes. Each year, more than 9,000 volunteer mentors are recruited to support these students. To facilitate the recruitment and training of mentors, the state of Tennessee partners with three nonprofit organizations: tnAchieves, The Ayers Foundation and the Regional Economic Development Initiative.

Each year, approximately 17,000 recent high school graduates enter higher education as Tennessee Promise students. As a result, enrollment at community and technical colleges has increased by 25 and 20 percent, respectively, following program implementation. Since

2015, the state's secondary educational attainment rate has increased from 36 percent to approximately 41 percent. Tennessee Promise students graduate on time at more than twice the rate of their non-Promise peers. Approximately 21 percent of the first cohort of Tennessee Promise students graduated on time from a community college, compared to only 9.5 percent of their non-Promise peers who entered a community college in that same year.

## ARKANSAS K-12 PANIC BUTTON SCHOOL SAFETY SYSTEM

Arkansas's K-12 Panic Button School Safety System, established by the School Safety Act of 2015, was created to promote safety in the state's schools. To achieve the goals of the legislation, the state partnered with Rave Mobile Safety, a software company based in Massachusetts, to provide the Rave Panic Button mobile application to all public schools in Arkansas. A map of every school building and campus is available for download onto the cellular phones of each classroom teacher and other key personnel. The Panic Button mobile application has five options for activation in an emergency: fire, medical, police, active shooter and other. With the activation of the Panic Button, designated on-site personnel and local emergency responders are notified simultaneously.

In 2016, an active shooter incident at an Arkansas school led to a campus lockdown. After learning that a student had a gun on campus, a teacher immediately selected the active shooter option of the Panic Button app, which notified all key personnel and emergency responders. Within eight minutes of activating the app, law enforcement had the gun and student in custody with no injuries reported.

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security formally recognized the Panic Button app as a Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technology through the Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technology (SAFETY) Act designation.

# CONFERENCE NOTES

## THOMAS B. MURPHY LONGEVITY OF SERVICE AWARD

The Thomas B. Murphy Longevity of Service Award is presented to a legislative member of the SLC who has demonstrated a commitment to public service.

The recipient of this year's Thomas B. Murphy Longevity of Service Award is North Carolina's **Representative Julia Howard**. First elected in 1988, Representative Howard is serving her 15<sup>th</sup> two-year term in the House. She is a longtime member of the Southern Legislative Conference and served as chair of the organization from 2007-2008.

Representative Howard currently serves as chair of the House Committee on Banking and co-chair of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance. She previously has served as chair of the House Ethics Committee. During her time in the General Assembly, she has become well known for her work on welfare reform, child protection laws and support of small businesses.

A resident of Mocksville, Representative Howard is a licensed real estate broker and appraiser, and the owner of Howard Realty in Davie County. With two children and six grandchildren, she always has focused on making North Carolina a better place for families to live, work and thrive.

## CARTER/HELLARD LEGISLATIVE STAFF AWARD

Presented annually, the Carter/Hellard Legislative Staff Award is given to a staff member who has demonstrated excellence and dedication in service to state legislators in the South. **Ms. Christine Murdock, deputy director of Georgia's House Budget and Research Office**, was selected by the members of the Legislative Service Agency (LSA) Directors Group as the winner of the 2018 award.

Ms. Murdock began her service in the House Budget and Research Office in 2007 as a budget and policy analyst, before becoming deputy director in 2011. Previously, she served in the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and for the Southern Regional Education Board.



In his nomination letter, Representative Terry England, chair of the Georgia House Appropriations Committee, said, "While politics is a tough business often filled with agendas and disagreements, Christine always treats the members of the Georgia General Assembly equally, no matter of party or philosophy, and while keeping a good sense of humor and enjoying an often tense process."

Ms. Murdock was honored at the LSA Directors Luncheon on July 22.

# APPRECIATION

The Southern Legislative Conference extends special thanks to the following friends for their generous assistance with the general and substantive programs for our 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

We are grateful for their continued support and interest in the Conference.

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# ANNUAL MEETING HOST STATE COMMITTEE AND SLC STAFF

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Senator S. Kiki Curls	Senator Jeanie Riddle
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Senator Ed Emery	Senator Dave Schatz
Senator Dan Hegeman	Senator Wayne Wallingford
Senator Brian Munzlinger	Senator Gina Walsh
Senator Jamilah Nasheed	Senator Jay Wasson
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	House Majority Floor Leader Rob Vescovo
	Representative Jason Chipman
	Representative Marsha Haefner
	Representative Jeanie Lauer
	Representative Rocky Miller
	Representative Rebecca Ruth
	Representative Kathryn Swan
	House Minority Floor Leader Gail McCann Beatty
	House Assistant Minority Floor Leader Gina Mitten
	Representative Bruce Franks, Jr.

## CO-DIRECTORS OF HOST STATE CONFERENCE PLANNING

Cindy Kadlec, General Counsel, Senate

Terri Rademan, Training Coordinator, House

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# 2018-2019 SLC LEADERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The SLC Executive Committee serves as the organization's governing board and consists of each member state's House and Senate appointing authority and presiding officer, their respective appointments to the committee, and past Conference chairs who still serve in their state legislature. In addition, the chair of each SLC standing committee is an ex-officio member of the committee.



**CHAIR**  
Speaker Taylor Barras  
Louisiana



**CHAIR ELECT**  
Speaker Tim Moore  
North Carolina



**IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**  
Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard  
Missouri

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Daniel B. Verdin III  
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**VICE CHAIR**  
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Casey Murdock  
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Manly Barton  
Mississippi



**VICE CHAIR**  
Representative  
Nathaniel Ledbetter  
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### EDUCATION COMMITTEE



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*RESEARCH DIRECTOR*  
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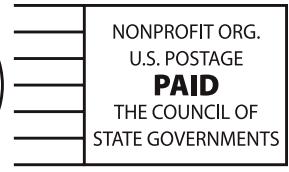
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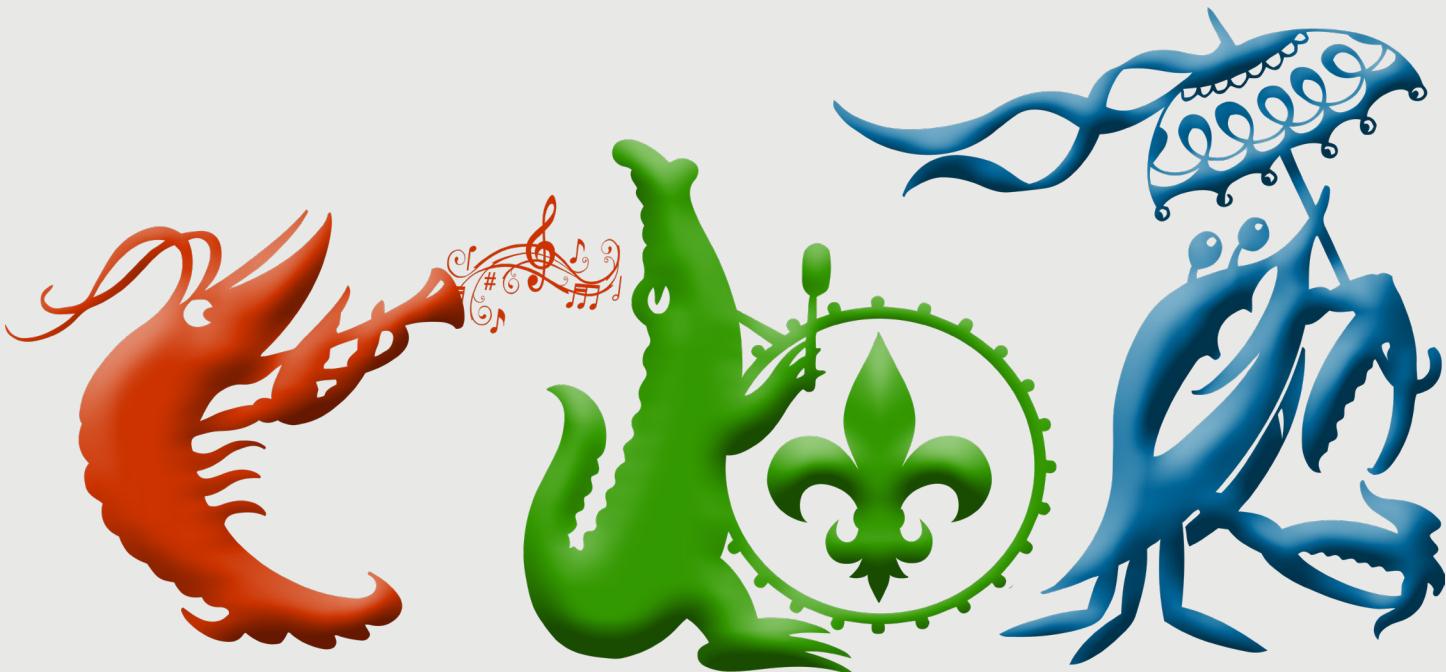
SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



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